

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 PC-01
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R 291120Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9566
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY PARIS 2252
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1627

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OAU
SUBJECT: COMOROS VICE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: LIBREVILLE 1606

1. COMOROS VICE PRESIDENT HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN LIBREVILLE JUNE 28 WHICH COVERED BOTH MAYOTTE AND MAJUNGA REFUGEES.
2. ON MAYOTTE, VICE PRESIDENT INDICATED GISCARD D'ESTAING'S STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT GOF HAD ENDED FRENCH COLONIZATION IN AFRICA WITH INDEPENDENCE OF DJIBOUTI OBVIOUSLY IGNORED SITUATION IN MAYOTTE. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTION AS TO WHAT GOF SHOULD DO RE MAYOTTE, VICE PRESIDENT STATED COMOROS READY TO ESTABLISH DIALOGUE WITH FRNACE AND THAT PRESIDENT HAD SENT CABLE TO GISCARD IN NOVEMBER 1976 TO THAT EFFECT. HOWEVER GOF APPARENTLY INDIFFERENT TO PROBLEM. GOF, HE ADDED, SHOULD ALSO REMOVE FRENCH FROM MAYOTTE TO NORMALIZE SITUATION.

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3. ON MAJUNGA REFUGEE PROBLEM: VICE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO ACTS IN MALAGASY REPUBLIC AS GENOCIDE. HE STATED 1,500 COMORONS KILLED IN 1976 AND COMOROS GOVERNEMENT HAD BEEN FACED WITH CHOICE OF EITHER REPATRIATING 16,000 SURVIVORS OR LETTING THEM BE EXTERMINATED. SURVIVORS REPATRIATED WITHIN SIX WEEKS AT COST OF APPROXIMATELY 20 MILLION DOLLARS. VICE PRESIDENT STATED GOF HAD

ATTEMPTED HINDER THIS EFFORT AND HAD EXPELLED MAJUNGA
REFUGEES WHO WISHED TO RETURN TO MAYOTTE AFTER BEING
REPATRIATED TO COMOROS.

4. COMMENT: VICE PRESIDENT SPOKE MODERATLY AND LEFT
FAVORABLE IF HUMBLE IMPRESSION. WHILE HE APPEARED
SINCERE IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, HIS
CHARGE OF MALAGASY GENOCIDE WILL DO NOTHING TO ASSIST OAU
PROPOSED BILATERAL RAPPROCHEMENT (REFTEL) WITH
MALAGASY REPUBLIC. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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